

Mr. P. E. Chase was added to the Committee of Indian Photographs.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, March 15, 1867.*

Present, thirteen members.

Dr. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read from Dr. Joseph Leidy, accompanying a description and an analysis, by Dr. J. Lawrence Smith, of a Meteorite, belonging to the American Philosophical Society, deposited with other minerals in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; from Dr. B. F. Shumard, St. Louis, March 4, 1867, inclosing his photograph; from the Ordnance Department, Southampton, England, 18th February, 1867; also from the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., December 19, 1866, accompanying a prospectus of the American Naturalist, and requesting brief reports of the proceedings of the Society for publication therein.

Donations to the Library were announced as follows: From the Essex Institute; from the Department of State at Washington; from the Managers of the Philadelphia Gas Works; from the College of Pharmacy; from Thomas C. Amory, Boston; and from the publishers of the Medical News and Library.

Prof. Cresson announced the death of Prof. John H. Alexander, a member of the Society, at Baltimore, on the 2d inst.

The death of Prince Maximilian Zu Weid, as occurring in the 85th year of his age, on the 3d of February, was announced.

The following communication was read from Dr. J. Lawrence Smith, of Louisville, Kentucky:

*A new Meteoric Iron from Mexico.*

A fragment of this meteoric mass was placed in my hands by Dr.

Joseph Leidy, of Philadelphia, with the following statement of its history :

“Some time ago the American Philosophical Society deposited its natural history collection with the Academy of Natural Sciences. In the collection of minerals, there was a special lot of Mexican minerals presented by Mr. Poinsett, who was at one time United States Minister to Mexico. The minerals consisted of rich silver ores, &c., and among them, this specimen of meteoric iron, which was labelled ‘Native Silver, Mexico.’ It appears to be an entire meteorite, exhibiting nowhere a cut or broken surface; one end, however, was much crushed, as if the specimen had been used for a hammer. The present weight of the specimen is thirty-six hundred grains; it is two inches long, one and a half wide, and one and a half inches high in the middle, and slopes irregularly towards each end. The face from which the piece sent was cut is hexagonal, and exhibits a partial crystalline arrangement, without development by an acid.”

Its structure is highly crystalline, and on the cut face of the piece I have, the laminae of the crystals are over one-sixteenth of an inch thick, and crossing each other at the usual angle. The Widmannstättien figures are very strongly developed by lead.

Its specific gravity is 7.72, and its composition shows the usual constituents in the following preparations :

Iron, . . . . .	91.103
Nickel, . . . . .	7.557
Cobalt, . . . . .	.763
Phosphorus, . . . . .	.020
Sulphur, . . . . .	trace
Copper, . . . . .	trace

Although this specimen is spoken of as being a complete meteorite, it not unfrequently happens that fragments of larger masses of meteoric iron, of a very highly crystalline structure, and that have been detached for some time, present the appearance of being complete masses. It is possible that this iron may be a portion of the large mass recently sent to France, from Mexico, by General Bazaine.

J. LAWRENCE SMITH,  
Louisville, Ky.

The following extract from a letter of Dr. I. A. Lapham, to Mr. P. E. Chase, dated Milwaukee, March 11, 1867, was read :

“Six years of the observations made here by me, have been re-

duced to uniform temperature ( $32^{\circ}$  Fahr.), and the monthly means found, by officers of the Government survey of the lakes, as follows :

J.	F.	M.	A.	M.	J.	J.	A.	S.	O.	N.	D.	Mean.
29.385	.368	.307	.334	.300	.356	.356	.352	.386	.372	.338	.403	.355.

Projecting a curve with these figures, and drawing a line bisecting the slopes of the several undulations (to represent the earth's orbit), you will find a tide with four maxima and four minima corresponding very nearly with the cardinal points of the ellipse."

Nominations Nos. 568 to 572 were read.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, April 5, 1867.*

Present, sixteen members.

Dr. Wood, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read from the Geological Bureau of Sweden, dated November 1, 1866; from the Royal Society of Sciences at Upsal, 1st October, 1866; from the Royal Academy of Naturalists at Vienna, October 30, 1866, severally announcing donations to the Library; also from the Nicolai Observatory at Pulkowa, June 12, 1866; from the Royal Society of Sciences at Upsal, September 15, 1866; from Royal Asiatic Society, London, December 17, 1866; from the Boston Society of Natural History, March 25, 1867; and from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, February 20, 1867, severally acknowledging the receipt of publications of this Society.

Donations for the Library were announced, viz. : From the Imperial Russian Geographical Society; from the Nicolai Observatory at Pulkowa; from the Bureau of Geological Research of Sweden; from the Imperial Society of Naturalists at Moscow; from the Royal Society of Sciences at Upsal; from the Royal Academy of Sciences at Vienna; from the